

Food and Table Fellowship

...

Sam Cohen (She/Her/Hers)

Food Restrictions

- Abstinence from pork
- Food laws are allegorical to moral laws

Jesus on Food Purity

Jesus placed a greater emphasis on consuming food in moral purity than consuming food in ritual purity

- Groups like the Pharisees were critical of this

Fasting

Fasting was done for two reasons in Jewish tradition

- Appeal to God's mercy
- Repentance

Jesus believed in...

- Fasting in moderation
- Keeping the fast between the person fasting and God

The Lord's Supper

- The most significant meal in the New Testament

Purpose of reenactment

- A central ritual in Christianity
- Unite believers
- Remember Jesus' death

Main Elements

- Bread and wine (body and blood)

How Does Table Fellowship Appear in the New Testament?

Food and table fellowship are often featured in the New Testament

- Food imagery
- Promote collectivism
- Unite believers

Table Fellowship

Main Points:

- Eating together was a way to strengthen social bonds and promote discussion
- Outsiders and exiles were prohibited
 - Some rabbis and other prominent scholars disagreed about this

Critics

- Paul
 - People who believe in Christ should be allowed to eat together
- Peter
 - He believed that he should not distinguish between Jews and Gentiles

Jesus On Eating With Gentiles

- Jesus adhered to Jewish food laws
- According to Matthew Jesus envisioned a time where all the faithful would eat together in the kingdom of Heaven
- It is unlikely that Jesus ever ate with Gentiles

Citations

- Freidenreich, David M. “Food and Table Fellowship.” In *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, 650-653. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Cohen, Shaye J.D. “Judaism and Jewishness.” In *The Jewish Annotated New Testament*, edited by Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler, 592-596. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.